RBSG Ski Club (South)

Newsletter. Issue 2, 2005

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Events for your diary

Date	Description	Cost Per Person	Contact
Monday 13 June, 6:00pm	**AGM, The Old Dispensary, 19a Leman Street** details in this issue	Free + free drink + free hot snacks	Stuart Mazdon
Summer 2005	**Water Skiing** details next issue	T.B.A.	Dave Beecham
October 2005	**Snozone at Milton Keynes** details next issue	T.B.A.	Dave Beecham
15-22 Jan 2006	**Skiing Holiday to Tignes** Mark Warner ChaletHotel L'Aiguille Percée - the main holiday for 2006. details in this issue	Under £500	Stuart Mazdon
March? 2006	**Skiing Holiday to Chamonix** Dave will be organising a small party to the favourite resort of expert skiers. details in the next issue	T.B.A.	Dave Beecham

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Reports from the Canadian holiday and the Wine Afloat event in April will be included in the next issue.

A Cautionary Thought For Skiers

(with apologies to the Bard)

To ski or not to ski: that is the question:
Whether 'tis easier on the hind to suffer
The stings and harrows of downhill misfortune,
Or to break arms amidst a pile of rubble,
And by resisting bend them? To cry: to weep;
No more; so we decide to bring an end
To backache and abrasive rocks
That flesh may tear to, 'tis a confrontation
To be ditched. To cry, to weep;
To weep: perchance to scream: so where's the rub;
For through that soothing balm relief may come
When we have muffled all the cries of pain
Through apres-ski we live again.

Water Skiing

The Chairman is planning a water skiing event some time during the summer, and would like to know whether this would be popular with club members. Contact Dave if you wish to express an interest.

A Note From Mary Russell

Following (more slowly) in the footsteps of the club's ex-chairman, Chris Drake, I will be walking the route of the London Marathon overnight on 18th/19th June, in aid of two of the many worthwhile cancer charities - these charities are supporting breast cancer research and patient care.

Cancer has touched two people close to me in the past year and, sadly, I lost my partner, Geoff, to the disease in January, so this event has particular personal significance. Those of you who are veterans of the club holidays to Val D'Isere and/or Mottaret over the past two years will remember Geoff.

Please would you think about sponsoring me - whether it is for someone you know who has suffered from cancer in the past or is being treated now, or because you recognise this as a worthy cause, or just because you'd like to see me footsore and weary after 26.2 miles!!!

If you would like to sponsor me to complete the full course, please let me have details of the amount you would like to donate:

Mary.russell@tiscali.co.uk or 01280 823547.

AGM

Thus far we have 4 nominations for club officials to stand on the club committee:

Chairman	Dave Beecham
Vice-Chairman	Ian Huggins
Treasurer	Dave Hamilton
Secretary	Stuart Mazdon

18 More of the World's Best Runs

Cruise Control - Best Easy On-Piste Runs

MOST BRITISH skiers are intermediates and most love easy cruising. These pistes are ideal for those who prefer not to push it - and the more adventurous of us when we want to take it easy.

MARVEL, Morrillon (linked to Flaine), France: As this long green run winds its way through the trees to Morrillon 1100, take time out to stop by each of the signs (in English as well as French), which tell you about the local wildlife.

ALLALIN, Saas Fee, Switzerland: This blue run from the top of the Metro Alpin underground funicular, and Saas Fee's very easy reds, such as Metro and Gletscherpromenade, have great year-round snow and make ideal easy cruising for a late-season (March or April) holiday.

ROSSINYOL, Soldeu, Andorra: This little-used easy blue run, which goes along the ridge from Pic de la Portella to El Forn, is usually delightfully quiet and has excellent views all the way to Pal and Arinsal.

PLATEAU ROSA TO PLAN MAISON, Cervinia, Italy: If you like wide, easy, motorway pistes, you'll love Cervinia. It has more long, flattering runs than almost any other resort. The easiest slopes are on the left as you look at the mountain. From the Plateau Rosa take piste number 6 (blue on some piste maps, red on others) where you can link up with numerous other gentle runs to the bottom.

LONGS COMBS, Les Sybelles, France: I have never seen such a vast area of easy cruising runs, greens that are virtually flat, blues that should be greens and reds that should be blues. Blacks? What blacks. Timid skiers who want plenty of choice will love it. The blue Longe Combe run goes from L'Ouillon in the centre of the ski area.

DEL COLLE, Champoluc, Italy: From Colle della Bettaforca head back towards Champoluc on this run, or over to Gressoney on Pistone Betta. Both are reds that deserve only a blue grading. Go midweek and you are likely to find the whole area deserted and ideal for easy cruising.

MICK'S GULLY, Snowmass, Colorado, USA: The huge, lightly wooded area of Big Burn is a cruising paradise with a truly satisfying variety of terrain, including the Powerline Glades where you'll find a variety of blue runs, including Mick's Gully.

COLUMBIA, Breckenridge, Colorado, USA: Of Breckenridge's four linked mountains, Peak 9 has the easiest slopes. It is nearly all gentle, wide, blue pistes at the top, such as the blue Columbia run, and almost flat wide, green runs at the bottom. And the ski patrol enforces a slower pace in narrow and crowded areas, so timid skiers or snowboarders should feel comfortable.

5 MILE, Sun Peaks, Canada: This long, long green run from Mount Tod back to the village is a delightful easy cruise all the way. It is usually deserted at the top but then gets a few more people on it lower down as bravos join the run from a series of short blacks.



Pull Up To The Bumper - Best Mogul Runs

WE ALL dream of being able to fly down the zip line with knees pounding like pistons, but few achieve this Holy Grail. Still, it doesn't stop us trying. These beautiful bump runs are sure to shorten the shelf life of your knee ligaments and give those riding the chair above a laugh, but you can point back up the mountain with a beer in your hand at the end and say, "I did that."

STOCKHORN, Zermatt, Switzerland: The Triftji area, served by one long and tricky t-bar, is often a vast mogul field. You can also start off above it by taking the ancient Stockhorn cable-car and heading down the monster moguls here first - don't be tempted to drift off to the right where the moguls are smaller because crevasses there add to your problems. Being north-facing and between 3400 and 2700m, the snow in this whole area stays in good condition long after a new snowfall. But the area does not open until February.

MONT FORT, Verbier, Switzerland: The monster moguls all around this area require nerve, fitness and rubbery legs if you are to have fun. I prefer the black Mont Fort run from the top of the Mont Fort cable-car because the snow is usually better at this height (3330m). If your legs are up to it, you can go straight on from the Mont Fort run to tackle Gentianes - a total of almost 1300m vertical of bump after bump.

THE PLUNGE, Telluride, Colorado, USA: One of Franz Klammer's favourite runs and part of a series of intimidating double black diamond bump runs served, thankfully, by a slow old chairlift which gives time for your legs to recover.

THE SWISS WALL, Avoriaz, France: Only the first metre of this run is in France. By the time you hit the first monster mogul you're in Switzerland heading down to Champéry. The run is not actually that steep but it is bumpy, and the poor snow conditions, plus being laughed at by people riding up the chair which runs its length, make it more intimidating.

POINT DE VUE, Argentière, France: Starting from the summit of the Grands Montets cable-car, this can be awkward, not just because of the bumps but also the left to right camber which leads down into the Argentière glacier and its gaping crevasses. But at least the spectacular views give you an excuse to stop and rest your legs for a while.

LA FACE, Val d'Isère, France: This was groomed to perfection for the 1992 Olympic downhill race. But most of the time it is 750m vertical of non-stop bumps from Bellevarde back to town. And now you can do it repeatedly using the new super-fast gondola - try that for a week and you'll need knee surgery when you get home.

THE FACE, Heavenly, California, USA: The black runs under the California base lifts - including The Face and Gunbarrel (often used for mogul competitions) - are seriously steep and challenging.

PRIMA CORNICE, Vail, Colorado, USA: Served by the Northwoods Express chair, Prima Cornice, on Vail's front face, is one of the steepest of several double black diamond trails.

AWE CHUTE, Winter Park, Colorado, USA: The Mary Jane area in Winter Park has some of the steepest mogul fields in the USA. If you don't fancy the narrowness of Awe Chute and Hole in the Wall, try Derailer, Long Haul or Brakeman.

By Dave Watts, reproduced from the Daily Mail Ski & Snowboard magazine

RBSG Ski Club (South)
Annual General Meeting

Commencing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, 13 June 2005
The Old Dispensary, 19a Leman Street, E1 8EN
Free drink and hot snacks for all attendees

Agenda

- **Welcome** Chairman
- **Reports:**
  The Chairman's Report
  The Secretary's Report
  The Treasurer's Report & Accounts
  The Vice-Chairman's Report
- **Motions**
  Discussion and vote on rule change proposed by Stuart Mazdon
- **Stand down of the old committee**
- **Election of the new committee**
- **Any other business**
- **Close** Chairman

Motion Proposed by Stuart Mazdon

That Club Rule 7. Club Officials should be changed thus:

7. Club Officials

A committee will manage all the club's business unless the rules say a certain matter will be dealt with in a general meeting. The committee must use the powers it was given under these rules. The committee should comprise a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and up to one other officer.

Club members will elect the committee by paper ballot at the club's Annual General Meeting.

A new committee will be elected each year, but members can be re-elected onto the committee. For a member to be voted onto the committee, he or she must be proposed by one Staff Member, and be seconded by another Staff Member. The proposals must be in writing and must be given to the secretary no later than seven working days before the Annual General Meeting.

Only a ~~current serving Royal Bank of Scotland Group employee who is a~~ fully paid up ~~Staff~~ Full or Associate Member of the club can be elected onto the committee.

~~Committee members must vacate office at the next Annual General Meeting if staff membership criteria are no longer met.~~

The committee must consist of at least two current serving Royal Bank of Scotland Group employees, and they must not be outnumbered by non-staff members of the committee. Therefore at each AGM or EGM, the secretary may only accept nominations for non-staff members into two committee posts, these being the first two posts to receive any non-staff nominations.

AGM Attendance Advice and Committee Nomination

Return the completed form to the Secretary, Stuart Mazdon at Group Risk Sys Dev, 5th Floor, Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, E1 1DU, by 6 June. Or e-mail him at work (stuart.mazdon@rbs.co.uk).

I will be attending the Club's AGM on Monday 13 June 2004.

Name: _____

Membership number (if known): _____

Contact number: _____

I offer myself to stand as _____ of the Club. I am a Staff Member of the Club and am willing to stand in the capacity specified.

Ski Club Accounts for 2004

Actual Income & Expenditure for the year to 31st December 2004.

		Income		Expenditure
Annual subscriptions :				
50 employee/pensioner members @ £3	£	150.00		
21 non-employee members @ £6	£	126.00		
Club / Society Activities :	£		£	
Bowling & membership nights	£	100.50	£	204.48
Club Holiday - Canada	£	21,083.28	£	21,186.27
Club Holiday - France	£	19,036.72	£	19,195.00
Misc	£	30.00	£	218.61
Other Income (excluding Staff Club subsidy):	£		£	
Bank interest		183.35		
Balances Carried Forward ***	£	40,709.85	£	40,804.36

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2004.

Cash in Hand @ 1/1/2004 *(Inclusive of any outstanding credits and debits)*	£	5,431.51	£	
Balances Brought Forward ***	£	40,709.85	£	40,804.36
Subsidy Received from Staff Club	£	0.00	£	
Cash in Hand @ 31/12/2004 *(Inclusive of any outstanding credits and debits)*	£		£	5,337.00
TOTALS	£	46,141.36	£	46,141.36

Signed :- *David Hamilton* **Date :-** …. 16 Mar 2005

02/05 **Hon. Treasurer**

Alpe d'Huez DVD

Now available, price £4 including P&P from the Club secretary. Send a cheque together with your name and address to him at the address on page 1. Copies will also be on sale at the AGM and other events, price £3.



Mark Warner Summer Holiday Offer

Chris Drake has sent through details of a "Family and friends" promotion from Mark Warner, offered to the Ski Club as regular and valued customers.

All prices are £425 per passenger
7 nights on the following June departure dates:

4th & 11th June	Abamar in Sardinia
5th & 12th June	San Agostino in Kalamata Greece
8th, 15th & 22nd June	Paleros Village Greece
9th, 16th & 23rd June	Lemnos Village Greece
12th & 19th June	San Lucianu in Corsica
20th June	Palm Beach in Turkey

Included in the cost of a Beach holiday are:

- Flights and local transfers
- Accommodation on a full board basis and wine with lunch and evening meal
- Childcare for children over 2 (subject to availability)
- A variety of water sports and tuition
- An extensive aerobics and activities program to include tennis and volleyball

In addition, at a small extra charge and subject to availability you can pre-book the following:

Childcare for infants	Regional flights
Tennis coaching	RYA sailing courses
Travel Insurance	Scuba diving

Conditions:
Subject to availability.
Maximum of 4 passengers at discounted rate per booking.
No maximum or minimum pre-book limits.
Price is per passenger no reduction for children.
14 night duration available on request.
Places will be limited and will be on first come first serve basis.
Mark Warner reserve the right to withdrawn partly or wholly the promotion without notice.
Mark Warner terms and conditions apply

Contact HollyMitchinson@markwarner.co.uk and JoArthy@markwarner.co.uk quoting FOSOH 1 to check availability and book.

Tignes, 15-22 January 2006

The appeal of Tignes is simple: good snow, spread over a wide area of varied terrain shared with Val d'Isère. Situated high in the peaks, Tignes offers snow sure slopes and superb off-piste. Intermediate and expert skiers love this fabulous high altitude location.

Tignes centres around three small villages sitting up above the tree line at 2100m. The resort forms part of the extensive Espace Killy ski area, which also covers neighbouring Val d'Isère. The two resorts are easily accessed from each other and together provide a huge variety of terrain for skiers and snowboarders, from challenging off-piste powder to leisurely cruising runs.

Beginners are well catered for with gentle, wide nursery slopes but Tignes really comes into its own for advanced and intermediate skiers. The highlight is the magnificent Grande Motte glacier (minutes away via the underground funicular lift) where long red and blue pistes drop from over 3000m down to the resort. Other lovely runs, including the memorable Sache black, descend through a scenic valley to the charming villages of Tignes-les-Boisses and Tignes-les-Brévières. Alternatively, you can test your skills on the challenging mogul run from Tovière, or ski home from Le Lac on a wide, relaxed blue run.

Off the slopes there's plenty going on in Tignes, as well as shops, bars, two cinemas and numerous restaurants, there's a local market twice a week and a programme of entertainment that includes snow rafting contests, ski shows, paragliding, sleigh rides with huskies, snowshoe trips, even ice diving in the lake. There's also a swimming pool, a climbing wall and a bowling alley.



The Aiguille Percée rock

The resort embarked on a major redevelopment and refurbishment programme in the 1990s, which seems to have paid off in reporter satisfaction. Okay, the architecture may leave a lot to be desired, but at least most traffic has been banished underground.

Don't forget that if you went to Val d'Isère in 2004 (or 2003 or 2005) and you still have your lift pass, you can claim 10% of the cost of next year's pass.

A six day pass also allows:

- a day in La Plagne, Les Arcs resort
- a day into The 3 vallées area
- a day in Valmorel



Ski Facts & Costs

Resort Altitude	2100m
Skiing Altitude	1550-3455m
Pistes	300km
Snowmaking	24km
Cross-country trails	44km

Number of Lifts (Espace Killy):

Chair	50
Drag	40
Gondola (2 new since 2004)	7
Funiculars	2

Number of Runs (Espace Killy):

Green	20
Blue	60
Red	36
Black	14

Snowboard Parks	1
Half Pipes	1
Cross-Country Trails	50km

Transfer time from Geneva Airport: 3 hours 45 mins

Lift Pass for Espace Killy
(Passport photo required for all lift passes)
6 day area pass (2005 prices)

Adult 16-59 yrs	187€ / £131
Adult 60-74 yrs	159€ / £111
Adult 75+	FREE
Child 5-12 yrs	140€ / £98
Child under 5 yrs	FREE

Ski Pack (2005 Prices)
Adult Skis 6 Days

Standard	£48
Sport	£65
Superior	£79

Adult Boots

Superior	£34

Kids skis, boots & helmet

4-6 yrs	£46
7-12 yrs	£55

The prices quoted here are based on last season's Mark Warner brochure. Prices may increase in the resort and/or fluctuate depending on the exchange rate.

The Hotel



Welcome to your retreat in the mountains. L'Aiguille Percée is quite simply a great hotel, situated in the valley, looking out over the Lac de Tignes and the Grande Motte glacier. Just moments away from the main lifts and the ski school, and opposite the Aeroski gondola with direct access to the Val d'Isère slopes, the location of this chalethotel couldn't be better. It offers the perfect base for skiers of all standards - and a lot more besides.



At L'Aiguille Percée you will find that rare thing - a hotel that offers something for everyone yet still retains its personality and charm. If you're a family you'll appreciate the colourful crèche and the good-sized family rooms. If you like comfort you'll love the wood panelled bedrooms, the hand painted furniture and large, modern bathrooms. And if you want to get romantic, this is definitely the place to do it. The dining room (with great views, naturally) has a stylish feel where you can party in a group or tuck yourself away à deux. If it all gets too much there's a steam room and sauna to relax in.



Note that Mark Warner applies no price differentials to different sized rooms, or those with balconies, baths or showers. The better rooms will be allocated to the first to apply. If you specifically require a bath or shower please specify which on the back of your booking form. Your preferences are more likely to be met the sooner you book.

The hotel consists of a large number of triple rooms, so it would be convenient if single people (particularly single males) could arrange to book as part of a group of three.

RBSG Ski Club (South) Prices:

Adult: under £500
Single room supplement: £200
Child reductions:
- Age 2-4 £50
- Age 5-10 £40
- Sharing with 2 adults £200

The final adult prices will be dependant on the ski club subsidy that is available (for full & associate members), but will be less than £500 for members and non-members.

Flight supplements:
- Gatwick nil
- Heathrow £25
- Birmingham £25
- Manchester £25
- Edinburgh £35

Adult ski school
(Not MW exclusive, max class size 8)
- 4 or 5 Mornings £82

Children's ski school (aged 5-14)
(Not MW exclusive, max class size 8)
- 5 Mornings £88
- 5 Full days £164

Childcare:
- Baby Club (4m to 11m) £250
- Toddler Club (12m to 2y) £250
- Mini Club (3y to 5y) £180
- Junior Club (6y to 9y) £150
- Kidz Club (10y to 12y) £150

Mark Warner are holding 50 places in the Chalethotel L'Aiguille Percée until their brochure comes out, which is usually in early July. Any bookings above that number can probably be accommodated provided we receive them by the 24 June deadline, but after that date it depends upon whether there are other bookings at the Hotel.

As those of you who have joined us on Mark Warner holidays in the last two years will know, the benefits are terrific:

- full English and/or continental breakfast
- evening meals 6 days per week
- free ski hosting for abilities from slow intermediate to advanced
- free unlimited wine with evening meals
- afternoon tea with home-made soups and cakes
- all English-speaking staff

In addition the ChaletHotel L'Aiguille Percée features:

- on-piste location (in-town blue run)
- full childcare facilities
- sauna and steam room
- sports massage

In order to ensure that you fulfil the Mark Warner booking conditions, and so that you are covered for cancellation, we need you to provide full details of your current holiday insurance cover, as set out on the booking form. A summary of the cover offered by Mark Warner is given below.

Mark Warner Insurance Policies

Summary of Cover	**Standard**	**Excess**	**Super**	**Excess**
Personal Accident	Up to £10,000	N/A	Up to £25,000 (£50,000 in flight)	N/A
Medical & Air Ambulance	Up to £2,000,000	£50	Up to £5,000,000	£50
Hospital Benefit	£15 per day up to £700	N/A	£30 per day up to £1,000	N/A
Baggage & Personal effects Single item limit Valuables limit in all Delayed Baggage	Up to £1,000 £200 £500 £50 per 12 hours up to £150	£50	Up to £2,000 £350 £700 £75 per 12 hours up to £225	£50
Money and Travel Documents Cash Limit Cash Limit under 18 years old	£500 £200 £50	£50	£750 £350 £50	£50
Personal Liability	Up to £1,000,000	£250	up to £2,000,000	£250
Travel Delay	£20 for 1st 12 hour delay & then £10 for each 12 hours thereafter up to £250	N/A	£30 for 1st 12 hour delay & then £20 for each 12 hours thereafter up to £250	N/A
Cancellation	Up to the contracted holiday cost	£50/£15 Loss of deposit	Up to the contracted holiday cost	£50/£15 Loss of deposit
Curtailment	Up to the contracted holiday cost	£50	Up to the contracted holiday cost	£50
Missed departure	Up to £500	N/A	Up to £750	N/A
Legal Advice & Expenses	£10,000	N/A	£10,000	N/A
Hijack	No cover	N/A	£100 per day up to £1000	N/A
Ski Equipment Owned Single Item Limit Hired equipment limit in all Ski Hire	 £500 £350 £250 £20 per day up to £300	£50	 £750 £500 £500 £20 per day up to £400	£50
Ski Pack	Up to £75 per day up to £300	N/A	Up to £75 per day up to £450	N/A
Piste Closure	£30 per day up to £300	N/A	£40 per day up to £400	N/A
Avalanche Closure	Up to £200	£50	Up to £200	£50

N.B. Mark Warner insurance is only available for those under the age of 65

Booking Form - Ski Club holiday to Tignes – 15-22 January 2006

Return to:	**Stuart Mazdon, Depot Code 028, Basel 2 Programme, 5th Floor, Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road, LONDON, E1 1DU** **by 24 June 2005**
Please keep the holiday details, and a copy of this booking form, for your future reference.	

Group Leader's Name : (Must be a club member)		
Contact address :		
Telephone:	Work:	Home/Mobile:

		No.	per person	**TOTALS**
Holiday deposits			x £150	=£
Insurance deposits	A. Mark Warner Standard Insurance (Adult)		x £40	=£
	B. Mark Warner Standard Insurance (Child 2-17)		x £30	=£
	C. Mark Warner Super Insurance (Adult)		x £50	=£
	D. Mark Warner Super Insurance (Child 2-17)		x £35	=£
Total of deposit cheque(s) enclosed (payable to "RBSG Ski Club (South)")				**£**

***Please note:**

Own Insurance. You must provide a copy of your insurance certificate and the latest renewal notice at the time of booking or take Mark Warner cover. The Mark Warner insurance prices quoted here are approximate based on last year's figures. The amounts shown should be paid now.

Single rooms will be subject to payment of £200 supplement. Avoid this extra cost by sharing - list age and relevant habits etc. overleaf so you can be matched with a compatible (same sex) sharer.

Childcare/Junior Ski School. Mark Warner offer nursery, crèche and childminding services 6 days a week for children aged 4 months to 12 years and Junior Ski school (Mark Warner exclusive) is offered for children from 5 yrs – 14 yrs. Prices are quoted on page 6 of the newsletter. List your requirements overleaf, or book at the resort.

Special diets can be catered for. List requirements overleaf.

Final invoices will be issued in September/ October. Balances will be payable in October.

	Your details (for additional rooms, please photocopy this sheet)							**Your preferences** (these cannot be guaranteed)		
Room	**Full Name as on Passport**	**Daytime Contact Number (Mobile no. preferred)**	**Next of Kin Contact Name and Phone Number**	**Insurance (A/B/C/D/ Own)***	**Age (if under 18)**	**Ski Club Member**	**Own Skis**	**Room type (Triple/Double/ Twin/Single/*)**	**Departure Airport**	*** Special Requirements (list overleaf)**
1st										
2nd										

Declaration (by Party Leader on behalf of each person in party): We agree to the Mark Warner booking conditions (copy available from organiser on request or can be viewed at www.markwarner.co.uk/how_to_book/winter_booking_conditions). We have applied for Mark Warner insurance or already have insurance providing at least the same cover as Mark Warner's Standard cover. We accept that deposits cannot be refunded once the booking has been made, unless a suitable replacement person can be found and any change of name charge is paid.

Signature: ..... Date: .....